well as the village cults still continue to retain their former position.

The Police Action undertaken by the Indian Union in 1948 changed the fortune and status of the State of Hyderabad. The most significant outcome was that political power changed hands —from an extremist communal party to the people of the State. It had a profound effect on the rural areas. However, sufficient time must elapse before we can evaluate its total influence on the life of the community. But it has set in motion certain trends which are not without interest to the student of social change in peasant communities.

The first definite change is that Muslims who occupied a privileged position during the former régime now no longer do so. On account of some of their un-neighbourly acts of terrorism during the last phase of extremist Muslim rule in the State some of them had become very unpopular. Fearing retaliation by the Hindus they ran away from the village temporarily. Now they have all returned. For some time they were jeered at and ridiculed, but at the time of our study cordiality had returned to the Hindu and Muslim sections of the population.

The second noticeable change is that under the administrative reforms initiated by the new administration forced labour and forced extraction of hospitality by government officials have been prohibited. In practice they still continue on a restricted scale. Government's decision to take determined steps against bribery and corruption has been announced; but firm action still remains to be taken in this direction.

Thirdly, the abolition of feudal estates has been a big step in the direction of land reform. With the end of the Jagirdari system Shamirpet has once again come under normal district administration. Further reforms ensuring a more equitable distribution of land, fixing a maximum limit on land holding and ending the evils of absentee landlordism are under contemplation. When these plans materialize substantial changes can be expected.

Fourthly, the government has intensified its welfare and nation-building activities. The village is to have a better school in the near future. The Public Health Department is already more active. The Agriculture and Veterinary departments are making a better planned and organized effort towards the introduction

of more scientific methods in their respective fields. But the results of these efforts can be judged only after a few years.

in some cases for minor Panchayats too as the provision of slaughter houses was an obligatory duty of the Panchayat. 231 651

Government desired slaughter houses to be departmentally managed and their collection of fees to be done by the Panchayat staff. In practice, however, the right of collection was auctioned to the highest bidder who paid the amount in one lump sum or by instalments to the Panchayats. He would collect the fees at the rates fixed by the Panchayat through his own agents. In some places there were two or three slaughter houses in the same Panchayat area, separately for pigs, sheep and goats, cows, bullocks and buffaloes, but the supervision of the Panchayats over the slaughter houses was very often most unsatisfactory. Neither [744] the sanitary inspector of the Panchayat nor the veterinary surgeon visited the mutton houses to inspect the type of mutton that was offered for sale, to examine whether it was fit for consumption and to regulate the sanitary conditions in those places. The supervisory staff of Panchayats and the Department of Public Health were too complacent to better the existing state of affairs.

Of the 13 villages for which information was available almost all had uniform rates fixed for goats and sheep which varied between two and four annas each. Slaughter of cows, bullocks and buffaloes and pigs was less common, more than half the number of villages having no rates for these. Rates for cows and bullocks varied between Re. 1 and Rs. 2½ whereas that for the pigs about 5 annas in most cases. Only Guntakal had a uniform rate of one rupee for all the three.

Again the fixation of the slaughter house fees was a matter left to the individual discretion of each Panchayat. The first grade Panchayats like Tuni, Guntakal and Narsapur in East Godavari, Anantpur and West Godavari Districts respectively had fixed up the rates, but, left them to be collected by the auction bidders, instead of collecting through their employees. The practice of letting the right of collecting slaughter house fees to the highest bidder in an auction, was prevalent even among the 2nd and 3rd grade Panchayats, except in places where Departmental collection and uniform rates existed as in Ramchandrapuram and Mandapeta in East Godavari and Tanuku in West Godavari. In Kistna and Vizagapatam Districts, auctioning of the right of collection of slaughter house fees was more in practice than their Departmental management, but the rates were more or less uniform. Even amongst

651 of income. Thus both in the Circars and the Ceded Districts this came to be a usual source of Panchayat finances. (Column 23.)

Lapsed Deposits : Lapsed deposits constituted another source on the income side, but it did not come under the regular tax source. (Column 47).

Interest on Postal Savings, Securities, etc : It was another minor source of income for money deposited. (Column 40.)

651 744 **Income from Fines under Food Adulteration Act :** It was a regular source of income for most of the major Panchayats, wherever samples of oils, ghee, milk, food stuffs, meat and fruits were taken by the Sanitary Inspector, and were sent for examination to Madras, and if these samples were found to have been adulterated, then the sellers were fined and these fines constituted a source of income to the Panchayat.

Irrespective of their grade, Panchayats used to send such samples to Madras Food Institute for examination and paid from Rs. 240/- to Rs. 500/- per year for examination and report. The income from fines varied from Panchayat to Panchayat. (Column 8.)

Again this was not at all a compulsory source of income avilable in all the Panchayats, even if they were major ones. There were several instances, where the Panchayats were not able to enforce this, as for example, Ganapavaram in West Godavari District, Pamaru, Pedana, and Kantaram Panchayats in Kistna District, and there were such examples in other districts too.

There were some instances, where the enforcement of Food Adulteration Act did not result in any advantage to the Panchayat, as the charges paid for examining the adulterated foodstuffs were not commensurate with the income from fines collected under the Act. For inatance, Penu Konda Panchayat in Anantpur had introduced the Food Adulteration Act, but while the expenditure for getting the samples examined came to Rs.240/-, the income from fines came to Rs. 9. In Gooty Panchayat, where the Food Adulteration Act was introduced, the income from fines was Rs. 400/- while the examination fees for the samples came to Rs. 240/-. Kurnool was backward in this respect, as Panchayats like Dhone, Gudur, Nandikotkur, Pattikonda and Maddikera did not enforce the Food Adulteration Act due to the want of sanitary inspectors. In Bellary, Rayadrug Panchayat alone had enforced Food Adulteration Act, while other Panchayats could not do so, as they were not as yet in a position to appoint sanitary inspectors for administering the Act.

As regards the minor Panchayats, they were not in a position to undertake this work at all. If the Food Adulteration Act was enforced in all the major Panchayats, it would no doubt prove to be a good source of income to the Panchayats. 651 744

Fines on Encroachments: Most of the Panchayat areas were not surveyed and as such they had only the right of fining the encroachments and not of removing them altogether. However, this system of penalysing them yielded a good source of income to the Panchayats, where-ever it existed. (Column 29.) 651 423

Among the major Panchayats, some of the 1st grade Panchayats like Tuni, Bhimavaram, Guntakal were punishing encroachments. Out of the 1052 encroachments booked in Tuni, about 213 were District Board encroachments. Amalapuram had not the courage to take up the problem of encroachments though there were many. In the West Godavari, Bhimavaram was booking offences of encroachments and the scale of fines was as follows :—

Licence Fees on Encroachments in Bhimavaram Panchayat

Type of Encroachment	Rate	Area	Period
	Rs. as. p.	Per sq.	Per
1. Sunshades.	0-2-0	yard.	half-year
2. Balcony.	0-8-0	do.	do.
3. Verandah or part of house.	1-0-0	do.	do.
4. All kinds of pendals.	0-0-6	do.	day.
5. Box shops and the like.	0-0-6	do.	day

For the grounds to be let temporarily for the purposes which came under the Public Resort Act, 1888, and under Section 160 (i), (ii) (iii) of the Madras Local Boards Act as amended for protection of public roads vested in Bhimavaram Panchayat Board, the rates were as below :—

Area	Rate
	Rs. as. p.
Upto an extent of 3000 sq. ft.	0-0-6 per sq. yard per day
For every 1000 sq. ft. or part thereof over 3000 sq. ft.	0-0-3 do.

367 In the Godavari Districts again, some of the minor Panchayats appeared to be paying heed to this as in Yeditha and Kapileswarapuram but none of the minor Panchayats in other districts showed any interest.

207 **Radio**: This had become more or less a universal feature in most of the Panchayats both major and minor and provided recreation to the listening public.

485 **Provision of Bus Stands and Cart Stands**: This was a practice that was gradually growing but was not yet prevalent on a wide scale. Some of the major Panchayats had this facility within their areas as Razole in East Godavari, Tadepalligudam, Kovvur, Undi, Velpur, Akividu and Peatapadu in West Godavari, Vuyyuru in Kistna, Parvatipuram, Bobbili, Salur and Kasimkot in Vizagapatam, Dharmavaram and Gooty in Anantpur, and Nandikotkur, Dhone and Pattikonda in Kurnool.

744 **Help in Case of Epidemics**: This obligation was met with varying degrees of success in the several Panchayats. The Panchayats in the 1st grade were giving every possible attention, while the Panchayats in the 2nd and 3rd grades were not always able to do much though they too appeared to be very enthusiastic. For instance, the 2nd grade Panchayats like Vuyyuru and Jaggayapeta in Kistna and 3rd grade Panchayats like Razole in East Godavari, Ganapavaram in West Godavari, Bobbili, Salur and Parvatipuram in Vizagapatam, Markapur, Maddikera, Kadiri and Nandikotkur in Kurnool, Yeditha, Gooty and Penu Konda in Anantpur and Kosgi, Harpanhalli, Kudligi, etc. in Bellary were assisting the villagers in times of infection, by providing additional sanitary help and vaccinators.

743 **Dispensaries and Medical Help**: A few Panchayats began to contemplate of late to undertake this obligation. Panchayats like Amalapuram in East Godavari spent nearly Rs. 2,000 per year on this [232] item. Bhimavaram in West Godavari had constructed a veterinary hospital at a cost of Rs. 4,000 and also gave an annual donation of Rs. 2,500 to it. Tanuku and Ramchandrapuram Panchayats in East Godavari intended opening medical centres. They were found to be making the necessary preparations. Tadepalligudam, another 3rd Grade Panchayat in West Godavari was able to gather about Rs. 2,000 with a view to start a veterinary dispensary of its own. Mukkamala, a minor Panchayat in East Godavari was the first Panchayat in the Presidency to have a medical dispensary of its own since the last twenty years. In Vuyyuru and Bobbili, the

area got less, in accordance with the proportion of land revenue collected in each place. The allocation of this cess was not based on needs or population of the locality. Even an increase of the grant of the land revenue or share of local fund cess on the existing basis would only accentuate the prevalent disparities in the incomes of the Panchayats. Hence a readjustment of the distribution of local fund cess according to the needs and population of the Panchayats appears to be a long-felt need. 651

House tax was another fruitful source of income and was not also properly tapped. Most of the minor Panchayats did not impose it because its imposition was not obligatory. The major Panchayats favoured either the lowest rates possible or the lowest amounts in certain cases by undervaluing a few of the houses of the privileged and by granting exemptions to some, under one pretext or the other. In many Panchayats, house values and rates continued to be the same without revision for years. The method of assessment was also not scientific. Without changing the basis of assessment of house tax from capital to rental valuation, without revision of house values at frequent intervals by impartial observers or assessors and compulsory imposition at the maximum rates and without rigorous efforts of collection, the situation cannot be expected to improve much.

Similarly in the matter of scavenging fees collected. There was no uniformity either in the rates or the base or the period for which they were collected in any Panchayat. Some times the rates were fixed according to the number of the family members; sometimes according to the number of seats, sometimes according to the status of the family holder, and sometimes the rates were different for Institutions and private families. In some places, they were collected together with house tax.

Slaughter house rates too varied for every animal slaughtered from one Panchayat to another. Though departmental management was preferred, auctioning of the right of collecting the fees continued in several Panchayats. There were also instances where slaughter fees were collected without slaughter houses existing there. Meat, offered for sale, was not regularly checked by the executive officer or Sanitary Inspector or the Veterinary Doctor. [744]

Panchayat finance had not only suffered from lack of uniformity in the rates of public market fees and those from ferry boats but had also to loose a major share of the income from these sources as it was being taken by the District Boards without any corresponding benefit to the Panchayats in return.

661 683 Even the major Panchayats with overseers and mistries, either left the budgeted plans unfinished, neglecting the roads on the plea that plans were not approved by the District Board or executed them in a haphazard piecemeal way by reducing all the estimates to an amount below Rs. 250/- which they could undertake. Some Panchayat budgets showed expenditure on roads, which were never laid but, when caught, sought to plead that they were spoiled by the time the inspecting authority could visit them. There were frauds in preparing the estimates, in the execution of contracts and in the accounts of the amounts shown as paid in the Panchayat budgets. These shady deals go unpunished for want of positive proof. Minor Panchayats portrayed better enthusiasm in the execution of their public works by the use of communal labour. However, to avoid much wastage of public money by the Panchayats more competent, honest and sincere supervising staff to look to their estimates and execution is essential. Corruption, delay and dilatory tactics should seriously be dealt with. Starting of Government Central Depots for storing and selling raw materials like lime, stone, tar, keel and other materials required for public works under Local Boards would mitigate to some extent the present evil of embezzlements of public funds. A close laison between the District Board and the Public Works Department to tighten up the supervision may also improve the position.

312 Though there is no acute water scarcity in the Circars as in the Ceded Districts there is need for providing protected water supply in Panchayats where there are no fresh water wells or to dig more wells where they are inadequate. While the Panchayats have not got resources to undertake this task, the District Boards and the State Government should take more interest.

744 364 Only some major Panchayats appointed sanitary inspectors, vaccinators, mid-wives and compounders to look after public health, scavengers and thotties to clean the roads, drains, gutters and latrines private and public. The sanitary inspectors looked to the enforcement of the Food Adulteration Act, supervision of the slaughter houses, prevention of infectious diseases, maintenance of the public health, sweeping of the roads, etc. with the assistance of the sanitary staff. But many Panchayats were not in a position to undertake most of these functions due to the lack of funds or difficulties in recruiting scavengers and thotties as in the case of Vizagapatam due to the low salaries paid.

231 Slaughter houses were found mostly in the minor and major Panchayats where even the right of collecting the receipts was